

Good Neighbor News



A Neighborhood Watch Publication

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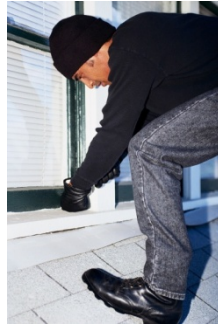
Being a Good Witness

"Being the eyes and ears of your neighborhood also includes being a good witness," says Police Sergeant Pete Pascual. "When you notice suspicious activity we ask that you call the police department, when it is taking place, 24 hours a day. We also ask that you note some very important facts."

The most important element when calling about suspicious activity is timing -- calling when the activity is taking place, not 10, 15 or even 60 minutes later. The police department's goal is to make contact with the suspicious person making timing is essential.

What we need next are facts that will pave the trail for the investigation. Generally the department gets information equivalent to "a small white truck" or "a blue mid-sized car." Usually the department is not given information that directly links to a specific vehicle. The most important facts about vehicles are:

1. License plate number
2. Make, model, year, color
3. Direction of travel. Which way did they go?



Also consider these important facts about suspicious people:

- How many people are there?
- Gender, age, height, race and hair color
 - Clothing description
 - Tattoos or other unique markings
 - Direction of travel

Finally, note what makes the activity suspicious:

- Are they looking in car windows or check car doors?
- Are they entering a back yard or looking over fences?
- Are they ringing door bells and looking in house windows?
- Are they entering front yards and removing property?

These important details help the police department effectively respond to your neighborhood's needs. Good policing takes teamwork and the City of Carlsbad Police Department is here to help, 24 hours a day. Be a good witness and a good neighbor. Let's work together and keep Carlsbad safe.

Child Safety Seat Changes in 2012



Effective January 1, 2012, there was a change in the law regarding child safety seats. A child must be properly restrained in a fitted rear child safety seat until the age of eight, or until they are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall.

Additional information:

- Place an infant in the back seat of a vehicle, in rear-facing child safety seat until the infant reaches the height or weight limit of that seat. Keep infants rear-facing until the age of one and until they are 20 pounds. Motorcycle Officer Travis Anderson reports, "Experts believe it is safer for an infant to ride facing backward so the seat back can absorb some of the impact of a crash."
- When a child outgrows a rear-facing seat, place the child in a forward-facing child safety seat, in the back seat of a vehicle until they reach the upper weight or height limit of that seat (age four and 40 pounds).
- When a child outgrows this seat, use a booster seat. The child should still ride in the back seat of a vehicle and in a booster seat until age eight or until they are at least 4 feet 9 inches tall.

Social Networking: Teaching children to safely communicate.

Facebook, twitter, YouTube, chat rooms, virtual worlds, blogs, texting...does any of this sound familiar? These are all modes of communication children use to be part of the current social scene. As a parent, help them use these sites safely.

Teach your children the following technical features of social networking:

- Post only what you would show to anyone in the world. What a child writes and the images a child posts have consequences everywhere.
- Understand that even if privacy settings are high, some of a child's profile may be seen by a broader audience.
- Encourage children to think about the language they use online; to think before posting pictures and videos; and to think before altering photos posted by someone else. Once a child posts it, it can't just "un-posted." Future employers, college admissions officers, coaches, teachers, and the police may at some point view a child's posts.
- Even if you delete the information from a site, you have little control over what may circulate online... forever.



Never impersonate someone:

- Let children know that it's wrong to create fictitious sites, pages or posts.
- Impersonating a teacher, a classmate or someone they made up can get you banned from a site and it might also be criminal.

Never post private information:

- Create clear guidelines for children about what should remain private.
- Tell children why it's important to keep some things about themselves, family members, and friends private. Information like Social Security numbers, street addresses, phone numbers and a family's financial information is private.
- Connecting the dots from one post or site to another to gain a person's personal information is easy. Don't think that just because you did not post it, it can't be connected to you.



Avoid the topic of sex online:

- Teens who don't talk about sex online are less likely to come in contact with predators.
- Block all unwanted contacts.

Safe guard profiles:

- Use privacy settings. Most social networking sites and chat rooms have adjustable privacy settings so you can restrict who has access to a child's profiles. Talk to children about the importance of these settings, and set and enforce rules about for who is allowed to view their profiles.
 - Set privacy settings high on a child's chat and video chat accounts. Most chat programs allow parents to control whether people on a child's contact list can see their status, including whether they are online.
 - Use only chat and email accounts that allow parents to determine who can send messages to children and block anyone not on the list.

Safe screen names:

- Encourage children to think about the impression a screen name can make. A good screen name won't reveal personal information like how old they are, their gender or where they live. For privacy purposes, a child's screen names should not be the same as their email addresses. Avoid suggestive or provocative screen names.

Talk to children:

- Know what a child is doing online and talk with them about socializing.
- Know the social networking sites a child uses so you can understand and monitor activities.
 - Search the social sites a child uses to see what information is posted. Are they pretending to be someone else?
 - Search by a child's name, nickname, school, hobbies, grade or community.
 - Know and approve "friend" lists. Limit a child's online "friends" to people they actually know. Just as you want to know who a child's friends are offline, it's a good to know who they're talking to online.
- Teach children to trust their gut instinct when online. Encourage them to tell you if they feel threatened by someone or uncomfortable because of something online. You can then help them report concerns to the police and to the social networking site. Most of these sites have links for users to report abusive, suspicious, or inappropriate behavior.